

AMNDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): Method of claim 3 29, wherein the element is derived from at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): Method of claim 5, wherein the element is derived from at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, Zr.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): Method of claim 6, wherein the element is Al.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): Method of claim 3 29, wherein the alloy contains at least two components selected from the group of elements consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): Method of claim 3 29, wherein the alloy contains at least one component selected from a first group of elements consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb, which are alloyed with at least one element selected from a second group of elements consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): Method of claim 9, wherein the alloy contains at least one component selected from a first group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, Zr, which is alloyed with at least one element selected from a second group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): Method of claim 10, wherein the alloy is composed of Al which is alloyed with at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): Method of claim 3 29, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): Method of claim 3 29, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): Method of claim 13, wherein the superficial oxide layer has a thickness between 10 nm and 100 nm.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (Currently amended): Method of claim -4 30, wherein the element is derived from the elements selected from the group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): Method of claim -4 30, wherein the alloy contains at least two components selected from elements in the group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): Method of claim -4 30, wherein the alloy contains at least one component selected from a first group consisting of Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Cd, In, Sn, Sb, which are alloyed with at least one element selected from a second group consisting of Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): Method of claim -4 30, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): Method of claim -4 30, wherein the ~~superficial~~ oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): Method of claim 5, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): Method of claim 5, wherein the ~~superficial~~ oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): Method of claim 8, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): Method of claim 8, wherein the ~~superficial~~ oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): Method of claim 9, wherein the deposited layer has a thickness between 1 nm and 500 nm.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): Method of claim 9, wherein the ~~superficial~~ oxide layer has a thickness between 0.1 nm and 500 nm.

Claims 27-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (New): A method of forming a test capillary, the method comprising the steps of:
providing foils and a spacer,

increasing the surface tension of a surface of at least one foil by depositing a layer of an element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water on the surface to form a deposited layer, and subsequently applying boiling water or water vapour on the deposited layer, and

positioning the spacer between the surface of one foil and another foil to form a capillary.

Claim 30 (New): The method of claim 30 wherein the opposing foils are polyester foils.

Claim 31 (New): Method of forming an analytical test element, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a foil having a surface of an element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water,

defining a sample application site and a determination site on the foil, and

increasing the surface tension of the surface by depositing a layer of an element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water on the surface to form a deposited layer, and subsequently applying boiling water or water vapour on the deposited layer,

wherein the test element is formed to transport a sample liquid from the sample application site to the determination site.

Claim 32 (New): Method of forming an analytical test element, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a foil having a surface,

defining a sample application site and a determination side on the foil, and

increasing the surface tension of the surface by depositing a layer of an element that can be oxidized with water or an alloy that can be oxidized with water on the surface to form a deposited layer, and subsequently applying superheated water vapour to the deposited layer,

wherein the test element is formed to transport a sample liquid from the sample application site to the determination site.